

February 17, 2017

Dear Chairpersons of the Appropriations Committee  
Senator Osten, Senator Formica and Representative Walker and Committee Members:

The Plainville Family Resource Network (PFRN) is much more than just the warm and welcoming early childhood experience that I appreciate as a Plainville parent and grandparent. *Much* more!

Coming from an Early Childhood educational and professional background, I am able to recognize the well planned learning environment that promotes school readiness. Knowing that learning begins from birth, the staff of the PFRN have created adult and child "Play & Learn" groups, classroom activity centers for every area of development, and a variety of parenting workshops and family experiences that connect children and families to school. Parent involvement, a key point for successful schools, starts early and strong at family resource centers!

PFRN activities are aligned to the "Early Learning and Development Standards" (ELDS) developed by the State of Connecticut. The Plainville Family Resource Network, and our other state family resource centers, are working together to help Connecticut's goal to "support children's early learning and growth."

Staff are trained in the nationally recognized "Parents as Teachers" program and use the "Ages and Stages" series of questionnaires that are so helpful in monitoring the growth and development of every child in their program. Parent educators also meet with families to ensure developmental progress, assist in early detection of special needs and also provide many additional resources for families.

What does this mean to me as a Connecticut taxpayer? Dollars we spend now, for family support, early intervention, and relief of concerns such as childhood anxiety or bully prevention through Connecticut family resource center programs SAVES me money in the future. To paraphrase the words of the great Frederick Douglass, "It is more fiscally responsible to build strong children (and families) than to pay the cost later on for broken programs (and missed opportunities.)"

I urge you to fully fund this crucial program!

Sincerely,  
Carolyn Coughlin  
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